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drainage basin), in being subject to extreme fluctuations in quantity and constitution, and in containing no species peculiar to it.—J. M. C.

Floral mechanism

Such is the title of a work whose first part has just appeared.[5] In this part twelve types of common spring flowers are selected, all of which are readily cultivated and may thus be kept under continued observation. In the case of each one of these flowers there is a full account of all the details of structure and the problems presented. A definite scheme of work is elaborated, so that in due order all questions are raised and answered. The work is intended for botanical students, teachers of elementary botany, "lovers of flowers," and candidates for examination.

A single example, selected at random, will illustrate the scheme. Under *Viola odorata* the following topics are presented: history, distribution, nomenclature, description, variations, floral diagram, sectional elevation, development, special mechanism, pollination, cleistogamy, monstrosities, fruit and seed, comparison of allied types, theoretical considerations, and note on Fibonacci phyllotaxis systems. All this is illustrated by five plates, three of them colored.

The large page and handsome type are exceedingly attractive, and the colored plates are as fine as we have seen. In short, the whole appearance of the book is ornate. But still, we wonder at its purpose. The author explains this as follows: "The general idea has been the provision of a methodical framework for the inclusion of all facts of observation and experiment, which may serve as an introductory scheme admitting of progressive elaboration and perfection with the attainment of new information." This sounds as if there was a pedagogical motive; but if it is for the teaching of botany, the tremendous emphasis laid upon a few "type" flowers is something new or something very old; at least it holds no relation to botany as at present developed. If it is a scientific treatise, which the author disclaims, it is too simple and diffuse. If it is for ornament, it is a great success. If it is to give opportunity for the display of admirable printing and three-color work, we have seen nothing better.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES

Kew Index.—The third supplement to this invaluable work has appeared,[6] including names and synonyms of all genera and species from the beginning of 1901 to the end of 1905. The second supplement, which appeared in 1904, and included names through 1900, was under the direction of W. T. THISELTON-

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[5] CHURCH, ARTHUR HARRY, Types of floral mechanism; a selection of diagrams and descriptions of common flowers, arranged as an introduction to the systematic study of angiosperms. I. Types I–XII (Jan. to April). Royal 4to. pp. vii+211, with 39 colored plates and numerous figs. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1908. $6.75.

[6] Index Kewensis plantarum phanerogamarum. Supplementum tertium. pp. 193. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1907. 28*s*.

DYER. The third supplement appears under the direction of D. PRAIN, the new director of the Kew Gardens. The supplement is a record of the remarkable activity in taxonomy during the five years covered, and critical judgment in reference to this great volume of work is becoming increasingly difficult. In fact, the list is a record of publication rather than an expression of opinion. For example, 476 acknowledged species of Crataegus are recorded for the five years, and Rubus is not far behind. To review such a work is impossible. It is only necessary to announce its appearance.—J. M. C.

North American Flora.—The third part of volume 22 has just been issued. It contains Grossulariaceae by F. V. COVILLE and N. L. BRITTON, 43 species (2 new) being referred to Ribes and 40 (4 new) to Grossularia; Platanaceae (6 spp.) by H. A. GLEASON; Crossosomataceae (4 spp., 1 new) by J. H. SMALL; Connaraceae (3 genera, 9 spp.) by N. L. BRITTON; Calycanthaceae (4 spp.) by C. L. POTTER; and the beginning of Rosaceae by P. A. RYDBERG, the key recognizing 18 tribes, 6 of which are completed and the seventh (Potentilleae) begun. Among the 19 genera of Rosaceae presented, Horkeliella (3 spp.) is new; and 29 new species are described, being distributed among Opulaster (4), Spiraea (5), Petrophytum, Aruncus (3), Chamaebatiaria, Lindleyella, Vauquelinia, Sericotheca (6), Horkelia (6), and Ivesia.—J. M. C.

Marine algae of Sweden.—KYLIN[7] has published a monograph of the algal flora of the west coast of Sweden. The species of the four following groups are first presented: Chlorophyceae (12 fams., 26 gen., 71 spp.), Fucoideae (16 fams., 51 gen., 105 spp.), Bangiales (5 gen., 11 spp.), Florideae (16 fams., 55 gen., 107 spp.). One new genus (*Acrothrix*) of Fucoideae is described. The second part of the contribution (80 pp.) presents the ecological factors and analyses the geographical distribution. At the conclusion of the discussion, the 105 species of Fucoideae and the 118 species of Florideae (incl. Bangiales) are distributed into arctic, subarctic, boreal-arctic, cold-boreal, and warm-boreal groups. The paper concludes with "biological" notes, a full bibliography, and an adequate index.—J. M. C.

Das Pflanzenreich.[8]—Part 33 contains the 9 genera of Aloineae (Liliaceae) by A. BERGER, *Chortolirion* being a new genus with 4 species. Altogether, 370 species are presented, many of them with numerous cultivated forms and entering into hybrids. The large genera are Aloe (178 spp., 14 new), Kniphofia (67 spp., 2 new), Haworthia (60 spp.), and Gasteria (43 spp.).

Part 34 contains the Sarraceniaceae by J. M. MACFARLANE, who gives an interesting account (in English) of the structure of the vegetative organs and the

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[7] KYLIN, HARALD, Studien über die Algenflora der schwedischen Westküste. pp. 288. *pls. 7*. Upsala. 1907. (Inaugural dissertation.)

[8] ENGLER, A., Das Pflanzenreich. Heft 33, Liliaceae-Asphodeloideae-Aloineae von A. BERGER. pp. 347. *figs. 141 (817)*. *M*17.60. Heft 34, Sarraceniaceae von J. M. MACFARLANE. pp. 39. *figs. 10 (43)*. *M*2.40. Leipzig: Wilhemn Engelmann. 1908.